

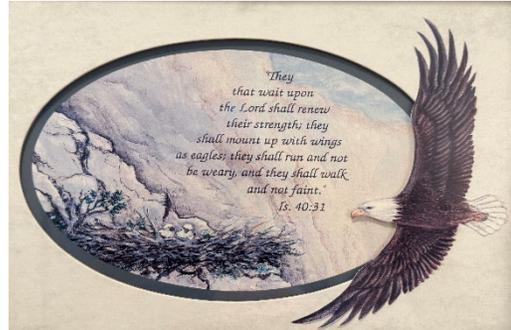
TO WAIT UPON THE LORD

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



TO WAIT UPON THE LORD WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Isaiah 40:31 is a verse with an eagle soaring over it that is pictured on the wall in my office. I have read it many times over the years. Yet, it never really occurred to me the magnitude of this verse's impact on all our lives and in every generation, including the ones to come.



To find the answer to what it really meant was truly an amazing blessing. It is rich in God's constant presence in every generation. It is a wonder that teaches every child of God that waiting on the LORD will go beyond your wildest dreams. So, let's go.

In the beginning, when Adam and Eve hid among the trees of the garden, it wasn't just the end of innocence; it was the beginning of waiting. The voice of the LORD came walking in the cool of the day, not with wrath, but with a question: "Where art thou?" And though judgment came, so did a promise, a seed would come, born of the woman, who would crush the serpent's head. That promise became the first reason to wait on the LORD. From that day on, waiting would become a way of life for the faithful.

Generations passed. The world grew darker. Yet Noah waited as he built the ark in obedience. Abraham waited for a promised son. Joseph waited in prison for dreams to be fulfilled. Moses waited forty years in the wilderness not once, but twice. David waited for the crown, though he had been anointed. Every prophet, every psalmist, every saint of old knew the ache of waiting not just for

deliverance, but for the One who would come to dwell with them forever.

Isaiah, too, saw that day from afar. In chapter 40, he spoke comfort to a weary people with words that have echoed down through the ages: “They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint.”

What a promise. What strength. What hope. But it would not be fully realized until another voice cried out in the wilderness.

John the Baptist was that voice fulfilling Isaiah 40:3. He pointed not to himself, but to the Lamb of God. When Jesus came to the Jordan, John saw the culmination of his own waiting: “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” Jesus was not just the fulfillment of prophecy; He was the strength of those who waited. He was the eagle's wings, the enduring legs, the steady walk.

Jesus taught His disciples to abide, to wait in faith, to pray, to endure. He said, “Come unto Me... and I will give you rest.” And still, He ascended into heaven with a final instruction: “Wait for the promise of the Father.” They waited in an upper room until the Spirit came like a rushing wind, and strength was renewed.

Throughout the New Testament, the message is the same: keep running the race, walk in the Spirit, and endure hardness as a good soldier. We are strengthened by grace, carried by the Spirit, and uplifted by hope, but we are still waiting. As Paul wrote, “We ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”

And then, at last, we reach the final page of Scripture. All the waiting of all the generations finds its rest in one glorious moment. “And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men...” The waiting is over. God Himself shall dwell with them. No more tears. No more death. No more sorrow. He that sat upon the throne says, “Behold, I make all things new.”

THEY THAT WAIT (continued)

What Does It Mean to Wait Upon the LORD?

Waiting on the LORD is never passive. It is not idleness, nor is it mere patience. It is trust fused with obedience. It is resting in His promise while laboring in His vineyard. It is moving forward one step, one prayer, one day at a time, while our eyes remain fixed on what we cannot yet see.

In the days of Isaiah, the people of Judah were weary. They had turned away from the LORD, but the prophet not only rebuked them, but he also lifted their eyes to something higher. He declared that the LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary. His understanding is infinite. And to those who wait upon Him, not those who run ahead, not those who turn back, but those who wait, He gives strength.

Strength to rise like eagles catching the unseen wind of God’s Spirit, lifting us above the storms of life. Strength to run when the path is long and hard and our breath is short. Strength to walk when there is no drama or spotlight, just daily faithfulness and obedience.

Every follower of Christ knows these seasons. Sometimes we soar. Sometimes we sprint. But most days, we walk. And the promise of Isaiah 40:31 is not limited to one generation. It is eternal. It is for all who are grafted into the vine. It is for those who tremble in the night and those who rise in the morning still believing.

When Jesus walked among us, He carried the heart of the Father to those who waited. To the woman at the well, who had waited for a Messiah but could hardly believe in her own worth, He revealed Himself. To the man at the pool of Bethesda, waiting thirty-eight years for healing, He said, “Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.” To the disciples weary with toil and fear, He spoke peace to the wind and waves. And to the thief on the cross waiting for death and fearing eternity, He said, “Today shalt thou be with Me in paradise.”

In every encounter, He gave strength to those who had none. He renewed the hope of those who dared to wait. And yet, even after His resurrection, the waiting continued. The early church waited in prayer. They waited for the Spirit. They waited for boldness, for open doors, for His return. Paul waited in prison. John waited on Patmos. The church, scattered and persecuted, waited for justice, for comfort, for the Lord’s appearing. And through it all, they were sustained by a single truth: “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise...” (2 Peter 3:9)

So it is today. The church still waits. The mother who prays for her prodigal son. The pastor who labors without applause. The widow who walks alone. The young believer longing for purpose. The missionary in a distant land. The aged saint who sees the

finish line and yet keeps walking forward. All of us, in our own way, wait on the LORD.

We are not the first. We will not be the last. But we are part of a holy lineage, those who “died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off.” (Hebrews 11:13)

Each generation has been given a promise to hold onto, a reason to wait.

To Abel, it was the hope of a better sacrifice.

To Noah, the rainbow in the sky.

To Abraham, a city whose builder and maker is God.

To David, a throne that would never end.

To Mary, a child conceived by the Holy Ghost.

To us, an eternal kingdom that cannot be shaken.

And though we may grow weary, we are reminded that the LORD Himself is waiting, too. As Peter wrote, He is “longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish.” He is not late. He is not indifferent. He waits, not because He is slow, but because He is merciful. He waits for one more soul. One more heart. One more cry of repentance. Yet the day is coming soon when the heavens shall be rolled back like a scroll. When the trumpet shall sound. When the waiting will end forever.

THEY THAT WAIT (Final Section)

Revelation 21:3 – The End of All Waiting

And then it happens. After all the generations. After all the longing. After all the prayers whispered in hospital rooms, all the tears shed at gravesides, all the songs sung in the dark, all the

quiet faithfulness that no one else saw after all the waiting... The sky opens.

John, exiled on the isle of Patmos, saw it in a vision. Not just a dream, but a certainty yet to come. He saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former things, wars, pain, death, and sin, were passed away. And then, the words that all of creation has waited to hear:

“Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men.”

Not a distant God. Not a hidden promise. But God, face to face with His redeemed.

He will dwell with them. He will be their God. And they shall be His people not for a moment, not for a generation, but forever. The eagle’s flight will end at His throne. The runner’s race will finish in His presence. The faithful walk will find its rest in His everlasting arms.

No more need to wait. The voice that called out in Eden, “Where art thou?” is now answered in full: “Here we are, LORD. We are home.”

And like David, we shall say,

“As for me, I will behold Thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with Thy likeness.” (Psalm 17:15) This is the day I long for. The day you long for. It is the true north of every heart that has ever dared to believe in the goodness of God. It is the final renewal of strength. The final lifting of weary souls. The final reward of those who have waited. And until that day comes, we wait. But we do not wait in vain. We wait with hope.

We wait with power. We wait with one another. We wait on the LORD.

 Point to Ponder:

What are you waiting for?

And more importantly, Who are you waiting for?

Lift up your eyes. His promise still stands. Your strength will be renewed.

 Closing Prayer:

LORD, I have waited for You in the quiet moments and in the hard seasons.

You are the strength of my days and the joy of my longing.

Teach me to wait well, not with worry, but with wonder.

Let me run and not grow weary. Let me walk and not faint.

Lift me, LORD, until I see You face to face.

As David prayed, “I will behold Thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with Thy likeness.”

And when that day comes, may I hear You say, “Well done.”

Even so, come, LORD Jesus. Amen.

If this booklet has comforted or helped you, consider passing it on to someone needing encouragement or walking through a dark valley. They may be waiting for the Shepherd’s love to touch their heart.

Love and prayers,
Dave Weeks

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Proofreading, Grammatical, and Content Support

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- The Grammarly App
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